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THE MONTCLARION

#MSUStudentVoice Since 1928

Volume XXX, Issue 3

Thursday, September 19, 2019

themontclarion.org

Former Sigma Pi Advisor Steals Over \$40,000 from Fraternity



The fraternity's rock is located between Blanton and Webster Hall.

Olivia Kearns | The Montclarion

Adrianna Caraballo
News Editor

Joseph Specchio, Montclair State University alumnus and former advisor to Sigma Pi's Iota Iota Chapter was charged with third-degree theft after stealing over 43-thousand dollars from the fraternity. Campus police arrested Specchio on July 30 after evidence showed his use of bad checks and fraudulent use of credit cards in addition to theft.

Being responsible for managing Sigma Pi's treasury, Specchio stole exactly \$43,819.86 from the fraternity over the course of two-and-a-half years.

Giavanna Caratozzolo, a junior English major, was upset

by Specchio's deception.

"He is not following through on the basis on what he supposedly stood for and that's just upsetting," Caratozzolo said. "As well as the fact that the act of stealing from the basis of what helps these boys become something greater on a college level is even worse."

Specchio had linked the fraternity's funds to his personal Bank of America checking account. There were various money transfers from the Sigma Pi account to his account between February 2016 to December 2018.

Specchio used the fraternity debit card to link to his personal account on a daily basis. The money was used for personal

items including goods, services, cash withdrawal, gas and food. Most of the purchases were made near his home or at Montclair State.

Katelyn MacVane, a junior English major, shared her feelings on the matter.

"I think it's horrible that someone would do this. That money was supposed to go to that fraternity's funds to be used for important matters," MacVane said. "I don't have friends in a sorority or fraternity and I honestly don't know what they do but I do know that what that guy did was wrong."

The members of Sigma Pi became suspicious of Specchio and obtained the bank statement from their Bank of Ameri-

ca account.

When it was discovered that Specchio was using the organization's bank account to make personal purchases, they requested that he hand over the remaining funds to them. Specchio made a personal check out to them but when they cashed it, the check did not have the funds that he promised them.

Jonathan M. Frost, Executive Director and CEO of Sigma Pi, is aware of the situation regarding the fraternity.

"Sigma Pi takes the financial well-being of our chapters seriously," Frost said. "At this time, we can not discuss this matter, as there is a pending legal investigation taking place."

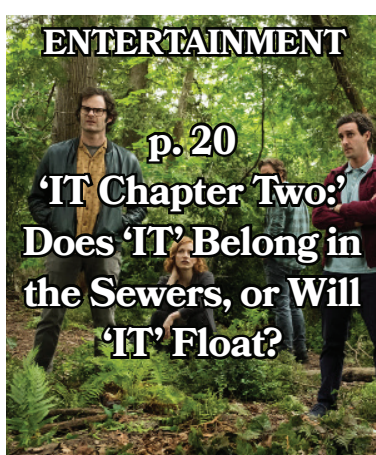
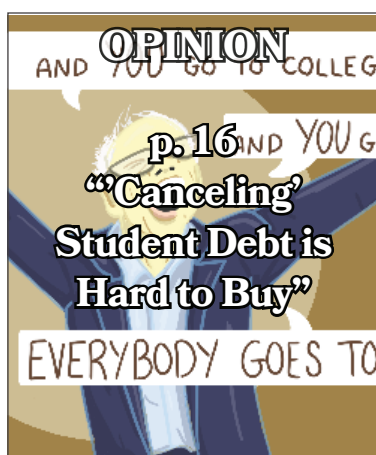
Kira Casas, Graduate Coordinator for Greek Life, did not

have any additional information to share regarding the case.

"We do not have a statement regarding this, and ask that you do not contact members of the organization," Casas said. "We will not provide their contact information."

Specchio appeared in the Passaic Superior Court on Aug. 14. The matter was referred to a grand jury and there is no scheduled court date and no attorney listed for him.

**Crossword
puzzle & more on
page 15**



THE MONTCLARION

School of Communication and Media, Room 2035
Montclair, N.J. 07043

The Montclarion is a publication of Montelican Publishing, Inc. published weekly, except during examinations, summer and winter sessions. The Montclarion is funded by student fees distributed by Montclair State University and incoming advertising revenue. The views expressed in the Opinion section, with the exception of the Main Editorial, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Montclarion.

The Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will print corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect. To report an error of fact or a Letter to the Editor, email the Editor-in-Chief at montclarionchief@gmail.com.

Information reported in the Red Hawk Rap Sheet comes directly from the MSU Police Department. We do not print retractions to the rap sheet unless information directly from the police report is incorrect. We can print an update to the events only if the newspaper is given access to relevant documents to corroborate the information.

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The first issue of The Montclarion, then named The Pelican, was published on Nov. 28, 1928.

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Red Hawk Rap Sheet



Monday, Sept. 9

Feliciano School of Business:

Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of a theft in the past. Officers were met on scene by a facilities supervisor who reported that Montclair State University club car #54's charger and cord were stolen from the inside of the vehicle. This incident is under investigation.

Sunday, Sept. 15

Machuga Heights: Patrol officers and Montclair State University EMS responded to the area in regards to an incident of simple assault. Officers were met on the scene by a male Lyft driver who reported being struck in the back of the head by a known female student, who was a passenger in his vehicle. Montclair State EMS responded to the scene to assess the male party, who refused further medical care. The victim indicated that he wished to file a complaint against the student, and was transported back to police headquarters to have an official statement taken. Officers were able to identify the accused, but were unable to make contact with the student. On Sunday, Sept. 15, student Shaneyah Ratliff was arrested while in Gordon Hall for simple assault and transported to police headquarters for processing. Miss Ratliff was later released pending a follow-up court date in the Little Falls Municipal Court.

Sunday, Sept. 15

Route 46 Eastbound: Non-student Michael Rodriguez was arrested for driving while intoxicated following a motor vehicle stop. Mr. Rodriguez was transported to the State Police Barracks in Totowa for ALCO testing, and returned back to university police headquarters for further processing. Several motor vehicle summonses were also issued to the accused who was later released to a family member's care pending a follow-up court date in the Little Falls Municipal Court.

Friday, Sept. 13

Police Headquarters: A female student came to report an incident of harassment, whereby she received numerous text messages and phone calls from her ex-boyfriend, a non-student, from Kean University. The student did not wish to file charges against the accused at this time and a complaint refusal was signed. Officers made contact with the male party and instructed him to discontinue all contact with the complainant. The Kean University police department was contacted regarding the incident and asked to check on the welfare and safety of the male student.

Sunday, Sept. 15

Blanton Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of a dispute. Officers were met on the scene by a female student who reported to have engaged in an argument with her boyfriend, a non-student. The student reported to have been slapped on the hand and subsequently pushed into her bedframe causing visible bruising to her stomach. The student also reported receiving harassing messages from her boyfriend of naked photos of herself, which were reported to have been shared on social media. The student declined to press charges against the male and a complaint refusal was signed. Montclair State University EMS arrived on the scene to assess the student, but further medical care was also declined. The accused, Mr. Draco Francis-Vaughan, later responded to police headquarters where he was placed under arrest and charged with harassment and cyber-harassment. Mr. Francis-Vaughan was processed and released pending a follow-up court date in the Little Falls Municipal Court.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at T-I-P-S (8477). All calls are strictly confidential.

Pop-Up Shop Event Encourages Students to Explore Downtown Montclair



Java Love, a local business out of Upper Montclair, New Jersey, gives out free coffee to students.

Rosaria Lo Presti | The Montclarion

Rosaria Lo Presti
Assistant News Editor

To kick off Commuter Life Appreciation Week (CLAW), Montclair State invited over 25 downtown businesses in Montclair, New Jersey to set up pop-up shop kiosks in the Student Center Quad.

Not only did this give students the opportunity to shop, but it also allowed students to speak with business owners and managers. Part-time jobs and internships were also available to students interested in experiencing the business world first hand.

Freshman economics major Anthony Adrignolo expressed his excitement in the job opportunities provided by the pop-up event.

“This event was a great opportunity for students looking for part-time jobs that are flexible with their busy school schedules,” Adrignolo said. “I visited several kiosks until I found the Investors Bank [shop], where I could apply for an internship.”

Java Love coffee shop located in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, was one of the many businesses attending the event.

Java Love representative Alex

Cecere talked about why their business appeals to college students.

“It’s a really cool place to hang out and do homework, and if you get bored on campus you can always come by and hang out with us,” Cecere said.

Students additionally had the option to participate in a raffle at the event where they could win free prizes.

Corinne Podolski, a sophomore majoring in English, was another student that attended the event.

“I heard about this event through email and decided to

just check it out,” Podolski said. “I love Java Love coffee, so I wanted to stop by the little booth and check out what they had to offer.”

The purpose of the event was to bring awareness of the extensive downtown area of Montclair to the student body, seeing that it is filled with many quaint shops and businesses for students to explore.

Jason Gleason, the director of the Montclair Center Bid, attended the event to help students discover what downtown Montclair has to offer.

“Today we are helping coordi-

nate along with Montclair State University all of these businesses here to interact with students on campus that maybe don’t know what’s going on downtown per se,” Gleason said.

From various job fairs to the arrival of several pop-up shops, Career Services has filled September with many events that give students the opportunity to meet with local businesses and see what downtown Montclair is all about.



Jason Gleason and a representative of Montclair Center Bid waiting for students to sign up to win a free gift card.

Rosaria Lo Presti | The Montclarion

“This event was a great opportunity for students looking for part-time jobs that are flexible with their busy school schedules.”

- Anthony Adrignolo, freshman economics major

Students Volunteer for 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance



Montclair State University students gardening at the community garden for the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Laura Tamayo | The Montclarion

Laura Tamayo
Contributing Writer

The Student Center cafeteria at Montclair State was filled with students hungry to volunteer for the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Students enjoyed a breakfast buffet as they waited to begin their service at one of the many on and off-campus locations they signed up for. The Student Center and the community garden were some of the on-campus locations in which students were hard at work gardening or making sandwiches.

Lauren Brodowski, the community engagement and learning coordinator of the event, was one of the organizers who

made sure students were making their way to their assigned locations around and outside of Montclair State.

Being one of the coordinators for this event, Brodowski shared her reason for being a part of it.

"Sept. 11 is very important [to me], I didn't have anyone involved, but I think as a country we were all in it together, regardless of who we were," Brodowski said. "I want to give back to the people that fight for our country every day and for those that lost their lives on 9/11 and their families." Off-campus events additionally took place in the neighboring towns around Montclair, New Jersey, including Little Falls, Clifton,

Wayne, Passaic and Bloomfield. Students took on tasks such as cleaning up community parks, visiting nursing homes and other care centers. One activity at the care center included participating in arts and crafts with the residents of the Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey in Wayne, New Jersey.

Olga Ramirez, an undecided freshman who commutes from Passaic, decided to volunteer by helping clean up a community park in her hometown.

"I think it's very important to help our community," Ramirez said. "I'm from Passaic [New Jersey], so I feel like by participating in Passaic, I'm making a change."

This year marked the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance at Montclair State.

Bryan Murdock, the director of the Center for Community Engagement, stressed the importance of the yearly event.

"There was a call for this kind of citizen engagement to commemorate the services and sacrifices of those who served and lost their lives," Murdock said. "It seemed like it would be a good fit for college students to get involved and to be part of the remembrance and to get them thinking about service as part of their lives at the same time."

The emphasis on giving back to the community, and adding to positive change in light of a dark

and tragic event in American history, was a unifying theme among volunteers who gave their time and service at the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Senior psychology major Stephanie Oyuela was one of the students that volunteered their time.

"I feel like it's always nice to give back to your community, especially for such a cause that has impacted our own community," Oyuela said. "I feel like so many people that day gave so much of their lives, their service and their sacrifice and that it's only right to give back."



Montclair State University students volunteering at one of the on-campus locations at the community garden for the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Laura Tamayo | The Montclarion

Professor Bikes 200 Miles for University Food Pantry



Andrew Scanlon, a Montclair State University nursing professor, rode his bike 200 miles in order to receive donations for the Red Hawk Food Pantry.

Olivia Kearns | *The Montclarion*

Francis Churchill
Contributing Writer

Andrew Scanlon, professor of nursing at Montclair State University, rode his bike the full length of New Jersey. Scanlon rode from Montclair State to Cape May, a total of 200 miles, without fail.

The purpose of this ride was to raise funds and awareness for the Red Hawk Food Pantry. Scanlon arrived at Montclair State and biked around campus with accompanying staff, faculty and students between 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14.

The entire School of Nursing, including Dean Smolowitz, followed Scanlon in cars. The \$1,000 goal was easily reached

on the Pantry’s fundraising page.

Scanlon wanted to help students at Montclair State that may be faced with food insecurity, health issues that are fundamental to nursing and to raise a greater awareness on the world’s hunger problem.

He also talked about promotional events that would take place throughout the semester.

“Moving forward we plan on organizing a similar, but bigger, event to coincide with service day,” Scanlon said. “[This would mean] involving faculty and staff from the School of Nursing, as well as students and clinical partners throughout the state to address issues not only of health and hunger, but also those issues that are

both globally and locally important as outlined by the U.N. sustainable development goals.”

Scanlon stated how he wants the program to continue based on these initiatives.

“[Our goal is] to raise money and awareness for the Red Hawk Pantry,” Scanlon said. “Currently, our total is \$1,720. Hopefully now that I have finished the 200-mile ride across New Jersey, people will be moved to donate to the crowdfunding website.”

Those who wish to get involved in Scanlon’s cause can donate to the crowdfunding website and can donate to the Red Hawk Pantry Amazon wish list.



School of Nursing faculty cheer Scanlon as he bikes for the Red Hawk Food Pantry. He raised \$1720 following the event.

Mackenzie Robertson | *The Montclarion*



Additional faculty and staff supported Scanlon on his journey to Cape May by biking alongside him on campus and following him in cars for the entire 200-mile duration.

Mackenzie Robertson | *The Montclarion*



You Can't Li(brary), Wellness is Important

Casey Masterson
Assistant Feature Editor

In the hustle and bustle of college life, it can be challenging to find some time for yourself. It's easy to get overwhelmed by balancing classes, clubs, homework, social lives, projects and work.

This stressful juggling act is why it's important to focus on your own wellness in order to prevent the negative outcomes of over-stressing. This is easier said than done, as adopting successful techniques to combat stress can be challenging.

Thankfully, there are resources on campus to lighten stress' burden. The Harry A. Sprague Library is taking the initiative of running wellness programs in order to help alleviate student stresses, and to educate them about wellness techniques.

The library's interest in wellness started in 2013, when they first began hosting therapy dogs during finals season in collaboration with the Office of Health Promotion. It was not long thereafter that the library was recognized as a prime location to offer wellness events.

Lori Petrozzello, Sprague Library's Coordinator of Circulation and Reserves, believes that students often come to the library stressed, so it's imperative to offer them an outlet.

"It's helpful to build study breaks into [the students'] study time,"

Petrozzello said. "They can take study breaks without leaving the library."

Students can take a study break by using the coloring wall, the puzzle station, the building block station, the stretch station and the many games that the library rents out.

During finals season, the library hosts a "Stress-Free Zone." This room entails a soothing atmosphere with nature scenes and coloring, as well as occasional yoga sessions.

There are also two new

events being offered this semester. The library is calling the new events "Tune in Tuesdays". The first is on alternate Tuesdays from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. since Sept. 10. Students can share what wellness techniques work for them and utilize mindfulness to overcome stress. The remaining Tuesdays will offer meditation classes from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. biweekly.

Even the library's clubs that are not centered around wellness seem to

have a positive impact on students. Patrick McGilloway, the senior library assistant, spearheads the library's chess club on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and has maintained a steady following since the club began.

McGilloway explained what he believes has made the club so popular. "What separates [chess club] from other clubs is it's a chill environment to sit, chat and play chess" McGilloway said. "It's as much about the socializa-

tion as it is about chess."

According to MayoClinic, social support can make it easier to deal with stress, and help promote a healthier lifestyle. McGilloway pointed out yet another insightful correlation.

"Chess itself is the high point of critical thinking," McGilloway said. "It has a high esteem as a great thinking game. You want to see the whole board. Wellness and mindfulness also requires us to widen our gaze."

It's amazing to see how cathartic a simple game of chess can become.

It's hardly a visit to the library without a conversation with the library's security guard, Mark Perez. Perez is also a professor of justice studies, child advocacy, psychology and new student seminar. His desk stands right before the doors, and he greets everyone who enters the library.

"I look at this place as a good possibility of making people feel comfortable," Perez said.

Many students come up to the desk to talk with him, and he offers advice to any who will take it. He's truly a person who cares about each and every student who walks through the doors.

"It's kind of selfish, to be honest," Perez said. "I didn't get mentorship growing up, and I want people to have that."

It's often the case that people talk to the kindly security guard in order to vent. Venting is a great way to re-

"I look at this place as a good possibility of making people feel comfortable."

-Mark Perez



On the second floor of the Sprague Library, there is a Relaxation Station 1000 piece puzzle for anyone to work on.

Ben Caplan | *The Montclarion*

lease stress, when done properly.

ThoughtHub emphasizes how important it is to have an active and empathetic listener when venting in order for venting to be healthy. Perez offers the caring ear to students, so they know they always have someone to turn to.

Although the library offers many wonderful programs, it seems that not many students are aware of them. This is a shame, because wellness seems to be an important issue for them.

Senior chemistry major Amy Vander Haar explained how important wellness is her.

“My course work is very demanding. I find myself to be very tired,” Vander Haar

“If I don’t make sure my wellness overall is on track, I will not do well in my courses. It’s a direct correlation.”

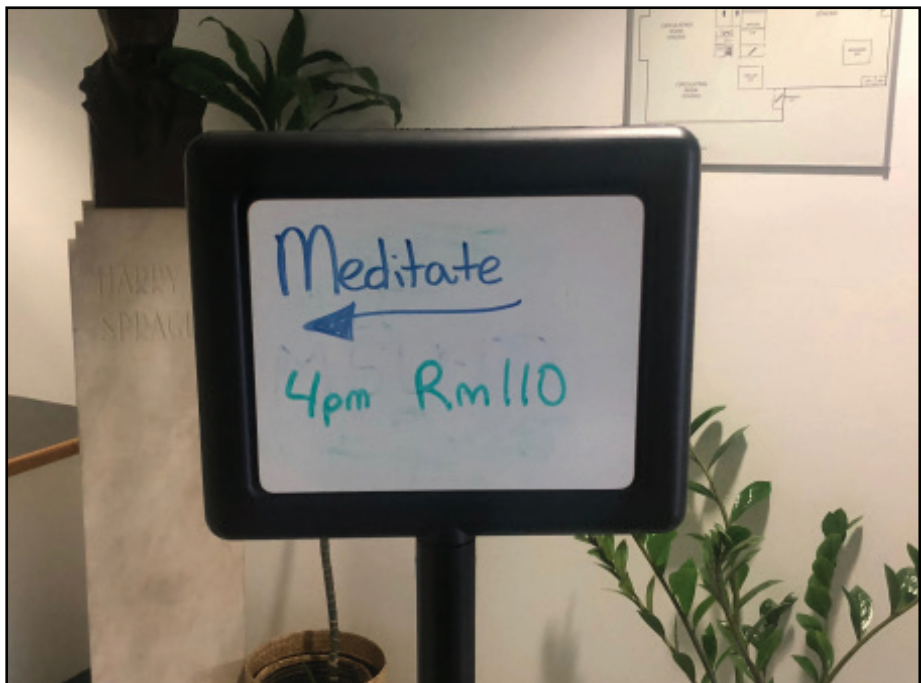
-Amy Vander Haar

said. “If I don’t make sure my wellness overall is on track, I will not do well in my courses. It’s a direct correlation.”

Luckily, Vander Haar is aware of what the library has to offer her.

“I think that this particular library does a good job at combating [stress] with its events,” Vander Haar said. “The staff has done a good job at creating that [relaxing] atmosphere.”

The library has made some wonderful progress in engaging students in the wellness dialogue and offering outlets for their stress. With a semester of new, daunting stresses ahead, it may be worthwhile to give the Sprague Library a chance.



The Library often promotes study breaks through guided meditation sessions.

Alexa Spear | *The Montclarion*



On the first floor of the Sprague Library, there is a poster on one of the walls near the printing lab. Students are encouraged to pick up markers and color it in.

Olivia Kearns | *The Montclarion*

Faculty Spotlight: Professor Del Russo



Professor Del Russo reflects upon the child advocacy program after his class in Dickson Hall.

Annabel Reyes | The Montclarion

Gabriella Dragone
Staff Writer

Among the original faculty of the Robert D. McCormick Center for Child Advocacy in 2000, Professor Joseph Del Russo teaches courses related to prevention, investigation and prosecution of sexual violence and child maltreatment cases in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences department.

Del Russo was the primary designer of the first-ever online program in 2008 at Montclair State University. He continues to teach within the McCormick Center, now within the Department of Social Work and Child Advocacy, where they offer courses for undergraduates, post-baccalaureate and graduate students for both online and on-campus.

Outside of school, Del Russo is an attorney and former Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Special Victims Unit in the

Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. He is a partner in the Forensic Risk Management Group (FRMG) with fellow Montclair State Professor Anthony V. D'Durso and Clifton City Attorney Mathew T. Priore.

FRMG assists school districts, universities and corporations where Title IX sexual harassment, intimidation or bullying is under review. FRMG specialists have highly specific skills to investigate, address and prevent high risk practices that could result in litigation.

Along with his work with FRMG, Del Russo was a past member of the Protection Subcommittee of the New Jersey Governor's Task force on Child Abuse and Neglect. He was also invited to partake on the Attorney General's working group where he helped draft the Sex Offender Risk Assessment scale used in Megan's Law cases. Del Russo also provides expert testimony in the area of "memory

and suggestibility of children" for both prosecution and criminal defense.

Dr. Nicole Lytle, an assistant professor of Social Work and Child Advocacy, has seen the impact Professor Del Russo has made first hand.

"Students benefit from his expertise and experience prosecuting crimes against children," Lytle said. "His ability to navigate the nuances of research and policy while guiding students to connect with the challenges of investigating allegations of child maltreatment make him an invaluable instructor and child advocate."

Some of his accomplishments include the design of a dedicated web site to train educators on mandatory reporting of child maltreatment.

Del Russo is a founder and Co-Director of the Child First/Finding Words program in New Jersey, which trains detectives, municipal police, child protection workers, mental health professionals, physicians, sexual assault nurse examiners and other family violence professionals on a protocol for conducting forensically defensible interviews. He also drafts curricula and has been a trainer in New Jersey's Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) since 2005.

Out of those accomplishments, Del Russo is most proud of spearheading the Childs First/Finding Words Forensic Interviewing Training Academy.

"This training has become the de facto basic training for child abuse prosecutors throughout New Jersey," Del Russo said. "We also provide ongoing guidance to all 21 counties, and have been cited approvingly by the Supreme Court."

Del Russo graduated from Rutgers University School of Law and was a

founding member and former president of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children-New Jersey (APSAC-NJ). One of his biggest goals in the future is to continue to help build on the foresight of Dr. Robert McCormick, founder of the McCormick Center.

Recognizing the overlap of social work, child protection, law enforcement, medicine and mental health, Del Russo shares Dr. McCormick's vision that the principles of these interrelated areas are worthy of academic study.

"It is consistent with the College's mission that we offer relevant programs of study, and equally fitting that the department provide an appropriate balance of academic rigor and practice related scholarship, while preparing students to be social workers and child advocates," said Del Russo.



Professor Del Russo stands among his colleagues in the College of Humanities.

Photo courtesy of Joseph Del Russo



Photo courtesy of Joseph Del Russo


Professor Del Russo has accomplished a lot during his career, but cites spearheading the ChildsFirst/FindingWords Forensic Interviewing Training Academy as one of his proudest achievements.



Red Hawk Night

**BUILD A ROCKY
LASERTAG
CARNIVAL GAMES
TRIVIA
PRIZES
FREE FOOD
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Friday,
September 27
9 p.m.-12 a.m.
Student Center**



Co-sponsors:

Athletics, Campus Recreation, Center for Student Involvement, WAM, Greek Life, Commuter Life, Volunteer Center, Dining Services, Health Promotion, Office for Social Justice & Diversity, RecBoard, Residence Life, SGA/SLAM, Montclair University Gamers, South Asian Student Association, Team Rocky/ Student Communications, University College



Students wait to order food in the Student Center cafeteria.

Olivia Kearns | The Montclarion

It’s All Here, Except for Those with Dietary Restrictions

Alyssa Smolen
Staff Writer

Normally, heading back to campus fills students with excitement for a fresh start, the chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. However, for some students with allergies and dietary restrictions, the thought of going back to school can fill them with anxiety.

Not everyone has the luxury of eating whatever they want when they go to a restaurant or a dining hall. Montclair State University students are no exception.

It can be difficult to find options on campus for students who follow a vegan, vegetarian, dairy-free or gluten-free diet. Although some students opt to follow a specific diet for personal or religious reasons, many have medical conditions, such as celiac disease, which requires them to eat a certain way.

However, Montclair State has taken steps to accommodate students dietary restrictions. Sam’s Place has recently implemented a strictly vegan and vegetari-

an section called Rooted.

Even if students don’t want to go directly to Rooted, Sam’s and Freeman dining hall offers vegetarian selections every day such as pizza, soup and the option to build your own sandwich or salad.

James Rush, sophomore economics major and former vegan, has eaten his fair share of plant-based meals at Sam’s.

“It gets old really fast,” Rush said. “When eating at the vegan section, the choices stay the same. The ingredients of the dishes don’t change.”

Talia Steinmetz, a sophomore film major who follows a vegetarian diet, has not been thrilled with the dining options, even though Sam’s has taken steps to accommodate different diets.

“There will be meat in scrambled eggs,” Steinmetz said. “The weekends are impossible because it’s just pizza and egg salad sandwiches. If they close early then there might be only some things left when I go later.”

If students get tired of eating at the dining hall, the Student Center has a number of restaurants to choose from includ-



Sam’s Place serves vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options.

Ben Caplan | The Montclarion

ing California Tortilla, Panda Express, So Deli, Grill Nation and Olo Sushi.

When following a vegan diet or vegetarian diet, a traditional meal at a restaurant can be easily modified upon request. Students can eat at California Tortilla by opting to choose no meat or cheese with their dish. Eating gluten-free there is easier than at other places because the burrito bowls are made with rice, which does not contain gluten.

The best places to eat at on campus to accommodate dietary restrictions are establishments which allow students to make their own meal. So Deli and Which Wich have gluten-free and vegan/vegetarian options. So Deli offers gluten-free bread, which is not always available at restaurants.

Those that follow certain diets are normally aware of foods that fit into their diet. However, sometimes restaurants are not aware of the consequences that cross-contamination can have on students, especially those with allergies.

Kayla Tozzi, senior dietetics major, follows a gluten-free diet and has witnessed cross-contamination at dining halls and other restaurants.

“I have seen grilled chicken going on a flour tortilla and being put back in the basin after someone decided to get crispy chicken,” Tozzi said. “Someone getting a bowl and trying to eat gluten-free can now get sick from the grilled chicken because it has been cross-contaminated.”

Tozzi now lives in The Village and is able to cook her own food to make sure her food is safe.

Even though Montclair State has a variety of restaurants to eat from, many students still have obstacles trying to follow their diet. Not everyone realizes the barriers people face when trying to accommodate their dietary needs. Although more choices are available in the dining hall, Montclair State can take more steps to provide more variety on campus.

For more information on vegan and vegetarian options on campus, see Montclair State’s Dine on Campus profile.



Students wait to be swiped in for food at Freeman Hall’s dining facility.

Photo courtesy of Therese Sheridan



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The Student Recreation Center primarily employs students.

Rosaria Lo Presti | The Montclarion

Student Workers: The Backbone of Montclair State

Rose Kershner
Contributing Writer

Standing in the rain at 7:30 a.m., baking donuts or cleaning sweaty workout machines are common morning rituals for some at Montclair State University. Hundreds of students have on-campus jobs in addition to their school work at the university.

Many of us recognize our resident and service assistants who work for Residence Life and interact with other student workers on a daily basis. It's easy to forget that when you're struggling to get coffee before your 8 a.m., another student was up to make it, and that the crossing guards we speed past every morning could be in some of our classes.

Jozyah Ramos, a sophomore television production major, worked as a crossing guard last school year. She says the worst part about working in bad weather is that it causes more people to ignore her. Last year, two girls walked into the street to get out of the snow even after she tried to stop them and they almost got hit.

"The girls looked at me with a frown as if the near accident was my doing," Ramos said.

Conducting traffic is an important responsibility and Ramos wishes everyone were more careful and realized that getting somewhere safely is more important than getting there quickly.

"Being rude or upset with a crossing guard doesn't make sense because we're just trying to make sure everyone's safe and has a fair enough time to drive and cross," Ramos said.

Another important line many students wait in is at Dunkin' Donuts. Julia Forsyth, a sophomore music education major, is in



Students line up to order coffee at Dunkin' Donuts.

Photo courtesy of Alexandra Clark



Deven Diamantis and fellow Rec Center employees pose for a photo outside of the building.

Photo courtesy of Deven Diamantis

her second year working at the Blanton location. Forsyth enjoys chatting with the fellow students she helps in line.

"Joke with us," Forsyth said. "Most of the staff is really fun and talkative and we just want to make it an enjoyable experience for everyone."

Some customers even recognize Forsyth by name, which is pretty impressive considering students rarely know who sits next to them in a lecture. Providing the caffeine to energize students through classes and late-night studying makes Dunkin' Donuts employees an important part of campus.

Many say the real heart of campus is the Student Recreation Center, otherwise known as the Rec Center. As the largest job supplier on-campus, not only do they hire front desk employees, but they also hire lifeguards and group fitness instructors.

Deven Diamantis, a sophomore public relations major, is often seen cleaning machines or smiling as she swipes students in.

"The best part about working at the Rec Center is getting to meet and know everyone that comes in," Diamantis said.

Working at such a popular spot means Diamantis has witnessed some interesting things. She's had to warn others that doing squats in a Patagonia vest and bucket hat is dangerous and notify others that they are not allowed to run barefoot on the track or treadmills.

Along with the rules, Rec Center employees such as Diamantis tend to know when the gym will get crowded.

"The best time to work out is definitely early in the morning between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., or late at night between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m.," Diamantis said.

Long Distance Relationships Can Have Their Shortcomings for Campus Residents



Hannah Effinger | *The Montclarion*

Purnasree Saha
Staff Writer

Students at Montclair State University who move to campus have to learn how to foster long distance relationships with their family members and friends. With the mounting pressure of classes and work, students often struggle to find time to connect with their loved ones.

During the summer, students get used to the ease of being in close proximity to their significant others, whether it's eating lunch or dinner on the same table, going on vacation, holding someone's hand or going for a walk together. Depending on how students are coping with the transition, they could feel lonely or depressed, especially if they haven't been home for a long time.

While living on campus, students emphasized the importance of contacting their family and friends on social media or allowing them to visit over the weekend.

Senior psychology major Alexandra Leet has been living on campus for three years, and she is going to be graduating early. She explained the strategy she's used to avoid becoming homesick.

"Everyday I communicate with my mom, but just [over] cell phone because I don't have that much time to use social media," Leet said. "I try and still keep in touch with my high school friends but not [often] because they went to different schools."

Leet's parents live 30-minutes away from Montclair State, so they come often to visit her on campus. When they're not able to visit, she goes home for the weekend.

After Leet graduates from Montclair State, she will continue living independently because she plans to attend graduate school.

Senior filmmaking major Brooke Pawlowski has lived on-campus but now chooses to commute.

"I enjoyed staying on-campus, but have not stayed the third year due to expenses," Pawlowski said.

Pawlowski's home is 30-minutes away from Montclair State. While she was away, she would contact her family members and boyfriend often.

Every other weekend, Pawlowski would return home and visit her boyfriend.

"Although we didn't get to hang out as much we used to, I was always going home and my boyfriend would come to visit," Pawlowski said. "We had a good balance."

Pawlowski continued to make their relationship a priority despite the distance, and they have now been together six years.

"After graduation, I eventually want to move out with my boyfriend, but not right away," Pawlowski said.

Junior psychology major Ajanai Lang enjoys living independently and feels that she's gotten used maintaining relationships at a distance.

"I communicate with family members every day [through] cellphone and social media," Lang said. "Sometimes I also communicate with my high school friends as well."

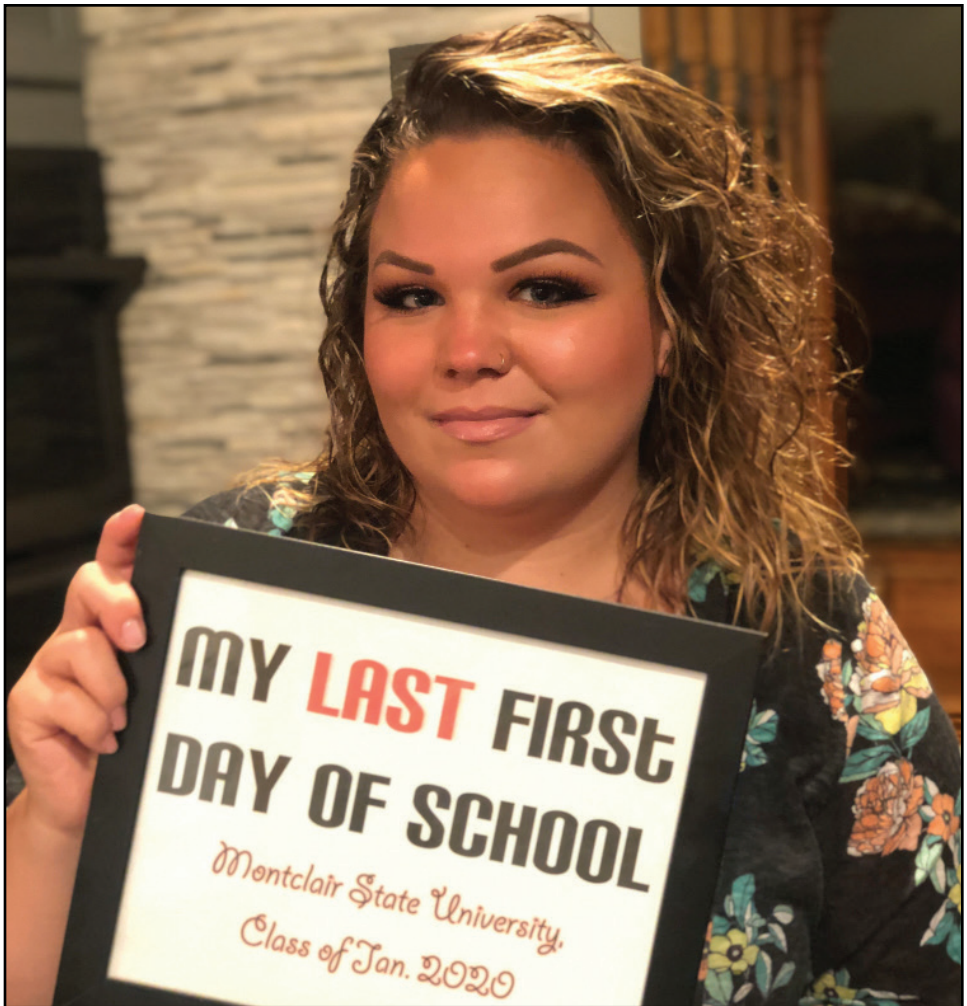
In the beginning of the semester, she missed her family and friends but now she is getting used to living by herself. Lang lives an hour away from Montclair State, so she gets to go home every other weekend.

er weekend.

"After graduating from Montclair State, I plan on going to graduate school and it depends on how life goes if I want to stay independent or not," Lang said.

Thanks to the technology of smart phones and social media, students have ways to cope with the distance between

their family, friends and significant others. Ultimately the most important ingredient to maintain relationships at a distance is making the time for each other.



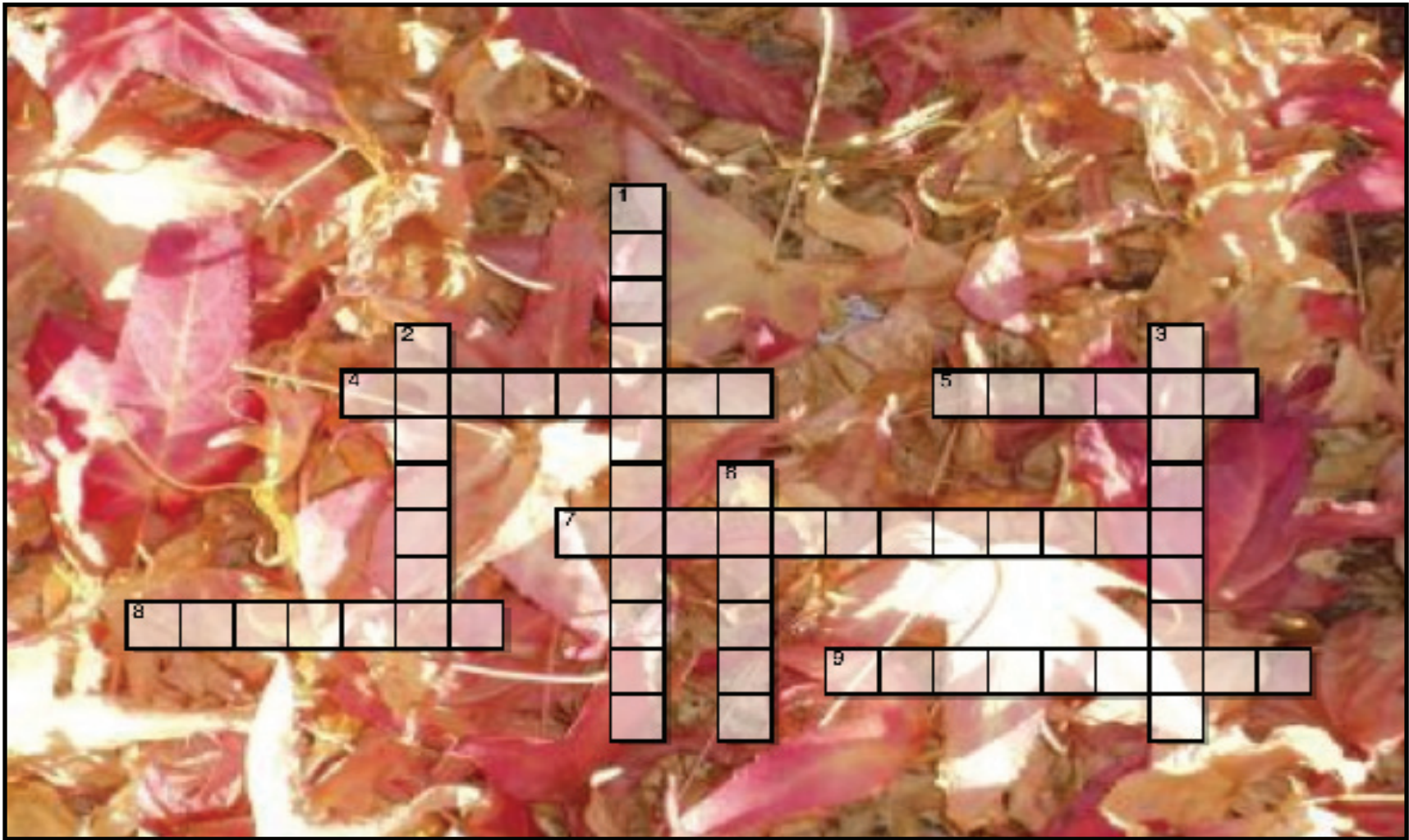
Senior filmmaking major Brooke Pawlowski lived on campus for three years, but decided to commute due to finances. Photo courtesy of Brooke Pawlowski

Help Wanted	Help Wanted	Help Wanted	Help Wanted / Other
<p>JOBS AND CLASSIFIEDS</p> <p>\$3999 /2007 Toyota Prius - Blue four door Car for sale with 105,000 miles. Sell as is - Good condition. State Inspection current, no accidents, brand new battery. If interested, please call or text (412) 302-3522</p> <p>\$24-\$27 / Part Time Home Health Aide/ CNA An entrepreneur seeking a reliable home health aide for 84 year old mom. Applicant must have 1+ years of experience. Candidate must be available Monday - Friday, 5 hrs daily with a hourly pay rate of \$24-\$27. If you are interested contact Mr. Edward (edwards2000@gmail.com) for more details.</p> <p>Mother's helper needed / 3 -4 days per week / Montclair Looking for a reliable and kind after school babysitter / mother's helper for two children ages 2 and 4. Responsibilities include helping with dinner, bath time, and light cleanup. Hours are approximately 4-7:30 pm, 3-4 days / week. Occasional weekend babysitting as well. Prior experience with children preferable. Please email: jordy.reisman@gmail.com with resume.</p> <p>Reliable After School Babysitter needed/ 5 days a week/ Montclair Looking for a reliable and kind after school babysitter for two girls (ages 10 and 5) starting asap. Responsibilities include picking up at the bus stop or at school, driving to after school activities in the Montclair area, prepping dinner & light clean up. Possibly more hours available on a needed basis. Regular hours are 3:30/3:45-5:30/5:45 Monday through Friday. Prior experience with children, clean driving record, and use of own reliable vehicle required. Please email: mhorowitz7@yahoo.com</p>	<p>After-School Care/ 3 days a Week / Cedar Grove Looking for reliable child care T, W, Th. 2:40-4:30 for a 13 year old. Includes picking up our son at school in Cedar Grove and bringing him to our home. Must have clean driving record and like pets! Available immediately. Please email ldfranzese@verizon.net.</p> <p>\$25 hourly / Math tutor needed / Teaneck or Skype Tutor needed for 5th and 6th grade material. Please send email to snowball7091@aol.com (Attn Barbara Farkas).</p> <p>Seeking a graduate student in Psychology or Education / Teaneck or Skype Must have the ability to break down material into small learning outcomes. The successful candidate must have strong skills in planning and organizing materials in preparation for an Early Childhood Certification Examination. Please email resume, experience, availability and hourly rate to Snowball7091@aol.com (Attention Barbara Farkas).</p> <p>In search of an after-school sitter for our 4 y/o son Would involve picking up at his preschool by 6pm, driving him home, and hanging out until my husband or I get home from work (usually by 6:45, 7:15 at the latest). We will need the occasional day in September, but by October need M-F. We both work in the city so we need someone reliable and willing to commit. It's a very easy gig for the right person. If willing/available, there is also the opportunity for extended hours on nights when we both need to work late. Please contact amandadekker85@gmail.com if interested.</p>	<p>\$150-\$250 per week/ dog walker needed Looking for an individual, to walk dogs, part time, in the Montclair/Glen Ridge area, starting immediately. Responsibilities include: walks, occasional transport, feeding, securing property & possible overnight sitting. Candidate must have a love for animals, be reliable, honest and have great references. Hours needed are Monday through Friday, from 11:00am – 2:30pm. Use of own, reliable vehicle required. If interested, please email Liz, at rrodwick@comcast.net, or text (973) 819-9893.</p> <p>\$20/HR: Driver/Dog walker needed for Upper Montclair family Seeking a responsible person to assist Upper Montclair family with driving 8th and 10th graders from school and to/from sports and music practices, and walking friendly dog. Must have reliable car and good driving record, and strong references. Nonsmoking home. Flexible for weekdays/ weeknights, but reliability is critical. Please contact: judigermano@gmail.com.</p> <p>\$20/ Babysitter Needed, Montclair Looking for a reliable and kind part-time babysitter for two children (ages 8 and 10), starting 9/10. Responsibilities include: picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities, helping with homework, and some light meal prep. Please be a non-smoker who is CPR certified with a clean driving record. Use of own reliable vehicle required. For our part, we are easy to work with and our children are respectful and kind. The schedule is: September-June, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2:30-7:00, with the potential for an additional day. If interested, please email: tonyperez21@yahoo.com</p> <p>\$18 / Experienced childcare giver/nanny In need of a childcare giver to start work immediately. He/she would be working for up to 5 hours daily Mon-Fri . If interested or for further details, please email: stephen.lamar@outlook.com</p>	<p>\$15-\$19 / After school childcare needed 3 days a week, Livingston Looking for childcare for a boy and girl (ages 13 and 11) starting 9/4/19. Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Livingston and nearby towns, helping with homework (mostly just making sure they do it), and maybe helping with preparing dinner. Both children are easy going and independent, and really good kids. Regular hours are 3:00-7:00 Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Prior experience with children preferred, use of own reliable vehicle required, and please provide references. If interested, please email: suzaronson@gmail.com</p> <p>Part Time Cashier for Local Bakery Nicolo's Italian Bakery and Deli is a local bakery looking for part-time help. The job requires taking care of customers, making change and light cleaning. The hours are Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 8-2. There is opportunity for more hours if requested. If interested please call Nicole 973-454-4861</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p>ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HAPPEN! Please CALL the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) at any time to speak to a counselor and get support. You can also connect to the Crisis Text Line by texting "Hello" to 741-741 to be connected to a counselor. All services are free, confidential and available 24/ 7 for anyone in crisis.</p>



The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Fall Equinox Edition



- Across**
- 4. A popular sport people watch during fall.
 - 5. Things in nature that change color during the fall.
 - 7. A fall-exclusive coffee flavor that people look forward to drinking.
 - 8. An item of clothing that people look forward to wearing during the fall.
 - 9. A holiday that people look forward to celebrating in the fall.

- Down**
- 1. What New Jersey typically experiences in the month of September.
 - 2. A fall activity that typically involves making s'mores.
 - 3. What month fall takes place in.
 - 6. A particular fruit people like to pick during fall.

Word Search

h	p	z	b	k	e	c	m	s	q	f	q	s	d	a	c	a	m	j	p
c	s	y	m	f	l	g	e	x	t	f	z	h	n	o	m	b	n	i	r
p	h	r	b	q	d	d	z	x	d	a	w	b	h	b	c	r	o	z	n
n	r	y	g	x	i	t	s	w	o	m	b	i	q	s	l	u	k	k	y
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Sudoku

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	5				3		2	1
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	3			6		8	4	
				3		2		7
				4	8			
		7					8	

- hoodies
apple picking
football
leaves
bonfires
- thanksgiving
hayrides
soccer
columbus day
- pumpkin spice
sweaters
halloween
back to school

*For answers to the puzzles, please check
The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*

OPINION



Alexis Kitchmire | The Montclarion

‘Canceling’ Student Debt is Hard to Buy

The third democratic debate was held last Thursday, and with a flock of 2020 presidential campaigns swarming around the country, many candidates are taking measures in hopes of getting the next generation of voters on their side.

One of the most notable candidates hoping to win the millennial vote is Vermont senator, Bernie Sanders. One of his strategies to gain their support is to “cancel student debt,” something that almost every college student dreams of.

Young voters fell in love with Sanders during his 2016 presidential campaign and were very disappointed when he lost the primary to Hillary Clinton, but many of them are worried about how he plans to keep his \$2.2 trillion promise.

The problem with completely eliminating student debt is that the cost of college contin-

ues to increase year after year. At Montclair State University, students’ annual tuition increased for the 2019-2020 school term. For New Jersey residents, it spiked from \$12,790 to \$13,073. For out-of-state students, it increased from \$20,568 to \$21,033.

As the cost of higher education continues to increase, so does the amount of student debt. According to lendedu.com, the total national student loan debt sits at \$1.52 trillion. New Jersey is ranked number 45 as one of the states whose students have the most debt, averaging about \$33,500 per borrower.

With numbers surpassing the trillion mark, the dream of canceling student debt appears to be moving further away. Candidates know that the key to winning the millennial vote is to free them of the burden that continues to

hold them back financially, and each candidate has their own proposal of fixing it.

To combat the national debt, Sanders plans to add a .5% tax on all Wall Street stock trades and .1% tax increase on bonds. Senator Elizabeth Warren has a similar idea to get rid of student debt by taxing the rich.

In the students’ best interest, regardless of which side of the aisle they fall on, they shouldn’t have to be someone else’s financial burden. People have made this argument many times but in the eyes of college students, this might be one of the only ways to possibly achieve this promise.

Other candidates have also proposed different ways to combat this problem. Senator Kamala Harris plans to allow students in debt to refinance their loans at a lower interest rate while former Vice President Joe Biden wants to fix the

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which will benefit teachers with loans who are busy educating the next generation.

The promises made at the debate in regards to student debt are not fulfilling for the majority of those who need it. Not every college student wants to be a teacher when they graduate and for others, their education doesn’t end with a bachelor’s degree.

While the 2020 presidential election is still over a year away, college students need to think about the logistics of the promises these candidates are making. By the time many of us graduate college, there is a very slim chance that our debts will be “canceled.”

Each of us has been given a duty and responsibility to uphold every four years and to elect the person who has our best interests in mind. If some-

thing sounds too good to be true, chances are it is.

We have seen many promises, even throughout the Trump Administration, that are still in limbo. Politicians act like salespeople and tell you the things you want to hear to get your vote. It is up to us to question the legitimacy of these promises before the final tickets are revealed.

All of us at The Montclarion cannot tell you who to vote for in 2020, but we urge our fellow students to continue to do their research before hitting the polls that November.

We all dream about having our student debt disappear, and each of these candidates seem to have our interests in mind, but the challenge is finding the right one who can successfully execute it.

Campus Voices:

Do you think it’s possible to completely “cancel” student debt? Why or why not

By Annabel Reyes & Tre Cameron



“I feel like the only way to really help out people with student debt is to lower the cost of college tuition in general or increase the financial aid that is given to students or people that are in low income housing. In that turn, that also builds up the cost of tuition because more people are getting access to college. I think that if we are able to give people more access to school, we shouldn’t be increasing the cost of school at the same time. I feel like that would be the first way to help out with student debt.”

- Joe Pandosh
Musical Theatre



“I don’t think it’s possible to completely cancel student debt because where would that money go and where would it come from? I know that my sister and brother have student debt from a couple of years ago, I think it’s a burden to have to take out money from your paycheck and have to put it towards your student debt, it’s just kind of a burden but I don’t think it’s completely possible to just cancel student debt.”

- Mariela Perez
Undeclared Freshman



“I don’t think it’s possible to forgive student debt because there is so much of it. I think it would be a lot harder to forgive it because there is so much. I personally have student debt and I am struggling with it. I actually have \$22,000 in student debt and to fix that, I’m going to have to get a good job and however long it takes me to do that, it’s just what I have to do.”

- Angelica Wilson
Television & Digital Media Junior



“That’s a hard question to answer, to be honest. It really depends. Student debt kind of goes hand-in-hand with financial aid which goes hand-in-hand with the raising of tuition to begin with, because you have all this financial aid which allows the schools to jack up their tuition rates. It would be ideal if you could cancel student debt I don’t know if you could answer that with a ‘yes’ or ‘no.’”

- Zach Joy
Computer Science Junior

The Which Wich Predicament

Our favorite sandwich shop on campus has changed for the worse



THOMAS NEIRA
ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

The start of a new school year can bring new beginnings. With all the changes that a new school year could bring, it is comforting to know that there are some things you can always count on to stay true and dependable. For me, that was Which Wich in Blanton Hall.

During my first two years at Montclair State University, I grew to love Which Wich sandwiches. Whenever I had a bad or stressful day, I could always count on Which Wich to lift my spirits. A classic Blanton sub had never let me down and I've lost count of how many I have had over the past couple of years.

Imagine my surprise when I walked into Which Wich last week for the first time this year ready for another filling, heartwarming sandwich, and my expectations are met with change. Not just any change, bad change.

I walked into Which Wich only to find that the beloved sandwich bags

used to check off my favorite sandwich options have been replaced. To my horror, they are now thick pieces of paper with the options cheaply typed on them as if done by a second grader who just learned how to use Microsoft Word.

I was also upset to learn that they took away the wide array of sandwich options to pick from, limiting my choices to only a few types of meat rather than over 20 different selections.

I decided to go with crispy chicken as my meat, something I do not usually go for, but, I was feeling adventurous. Which Wich decided to change upon us, therefore there must be no rules.

It also hurt to see that the sandwich sizes have decreased. There are only two size options for sandwiches now, regular and large. The large is only 10.5 inches long, merely the size of a regular in previous years.

I know exactly what you're trying to do, Which Wich. Do not play dumb with me.

I love lettuce in my subs, you know, like a normal human being. So, it was a shock to me when my eyes scanned through the list of toppings for my sandwich and lettuce was nowhere to be

found.

Now Which Wich, how could you forget what is arguably the most common sandwich topping of all? I asked the lady at the counter of the whereabouts of the "lettuce" option, and she also seemed befuddled.

She instructed me to just write the word "lettuce" somewhere on the sheet, so I wrote it on the side in big letters with the famous red Which Wich Sharpie. At least their choice of writing utensil hasn't changed, but I was still annoyed that I had to literally spell out the fact that I wanted lettuce on my sub.

I placed my sheet of paper in the basket that used to hold the famous brown sandwich bags, but now only hold their memory. I received my sandwich and was infuriated to see that it was given to me in one of the sandwich bags I've been missing so very dearly.

I brought my lunch back to The Montclarion office and unraveled the sandwich I had been long craving in order to end this nightmare I was living, but unfortunately, the nightmare was far from over.

They put ham in my sandwich when I clearly marked crispy chicken on the

paper. I would've understood if they had mistakenly given me grilled chicken as opposed to crispy chicken, but they didn't even bother to get the type of meat right.

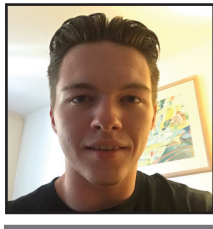
Overall, my latest experience in Which Wich was a forgetful one, from the first step I took into the store to the very end of my meal. It is clear there are problems running through the new Which Wich setup, stemming from its change of stationery and ending at its sandwich making. This is not the Which Wich I used to know.

To my fellow students, do not settle for anything less than what you deserve. You all deserve the best of the best, and we deserve the best sandwich shopping experience. Whatever is happening at Which Wich is an insult to the entire student body. If we don't have a great sandwich to look forward to, what are we left with?

Thomas Neira, a communication and media arts major, is in his first year as entertainment editor for The Montclarion.

The Trials and Tribulations of Commuting

Finding the tricks to navigating through traffic



FRANCIS CHURCHILL
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Ah, commuting, one of college's most annoying, yet most rewarding double-edged swords. It can make your life a thousand times easier, or it can be the bane of your existence.

The first subject is Route 3. Could you ask for a more congested 12-mile stretch outside the New York metropolitan area?

It is especially irritating since half of the roads in my glorious, swampy hometown of Secaucus are either closed or under construction. In turn, this makes getting on Route 3 more difficult than it needs to be.

The commute to Montclair State University is usually fine, unless of course someone who should have had their license revoked years ago causes an accident and major congestion on the highway.

The only decent thing to come from being late so often is developing an email relationship with your professors, who usually are fairly understanding, as they are also commuters to the campus.

A key part of embracing the role of a commuter is figuring out the best way to email your 8:30 a.m. professor saying, "Hey sorry, this road is congested with traffic with no notable movement



Alexis Kitchmire | The Montclarion

for the next hour."

The more contact and professionalism you have with your professors, the better off you are for the semester.

Once you get into the Montclair State area, there are several entrances to the university's campus. If you decide to take backroads, be forewarned about one of the worst three-way intersections. With no signals, lights or traffic cops, it is an absolute nightmare to get through.

Despite all of my perceived negative

attitudes toward commuting, there are several things I enjoy about it, the most relevant being that I am saving thousands of dollars by choosing not to dorm.

The lesser expense is accompanied by taking in the scenic views of Montclair State both coming into and leaving campus, especially during sunrises and sunsets. The commute can make you an impeccable driver and taking the train allows you to see places you may have never seen before. Just be careful

to not fall asleep for too long or you may miss your stop.

One of the most impactful experiences of commuting is that it allows you to travel around in your free time, both on and off campus. It allows you to explore the world around you and make new memories.

Not living on campus provides an important aspect of learning and growing. It enables you to keep in touch with those from your hometown and other people close to you outside of college.

Although many commuters receive the scraps in terms of parking, what you have to appreciate is the cardio workout it nearly always provides you with. Walking around the hilly campus and climbing many flights of stairs to get from parking lots to the main campus helps to keep your calves in check.

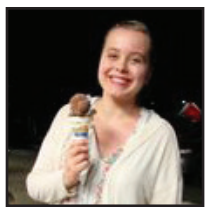
The sleep deprivation and the horrible drivers around the area are not the most helpful for your health. In essence, they help teach the importance of time management as you usually have to wake up extra early to avoid traffic and find a decent parking spot before classes begin.

All in all, there are many pros and cons, but all the money that I save by not paying room and board makes it worth the commute.

Francis Churchill, a communication and media arts major, is in his first year as a contributing writer for The Montclarion.

It's Time We Stop Giving Awards to Rapists

Celebrating the work of rapists is dismissive and danger-



KRISTEN MILBURN
STAFF WRITER

Roman Polanski is a convicted child rapist. He raped a 13-year-old girl in 1977 and does not travel much since he fled from America while awaiting his sentencing.

As of last week, he is also a winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Venice International Film Festival for his movie about a wrongfully accused criminal.

A jury voted the film, his 14th since he committed rape, the second best of the esteemed festival. Polanski has also been awarded an Oscar, two Golden Globes and the Cannes Palme D'or since he was found, say it with me now, guilty of raping a child.

Call me an oversensitive millennial, but I do not particularly want to see convicted rapists supported by the arts community. By continuing to encourage, and even celebrate, the work of rapists, we insinuate that sexual assault is meaningless compared to the perceived merit of the art.

Each time we hand Polanski another award (or, I guess, mail it to him since he can't travel to participate in many award ceremonies because he is currently a fugitive), we are basically saying that the rape was a bummer, but man, does he make great movies.

Yes, he does make great movies. I would be remiss if I did not acknowl-

edge this. But one of art's primary functions is to reflect societal values, so we have to stop pretending that we can separate the man from the art just because it feels convenient to do so.

He is a rapist who directs movies, not a director who happened to rape someone.

Dismissing Polanski's rape because he makes good movies is also irresponsible because it's not like he is the only person capable of making good movies. Allowing Polanski to lead the entertainment industry despite raping a child actively takes opportunities away from equally talented filmmakers and creatives who have not committed sexual assault.

Industry leaders are quick to say that minority filmmakers are not making successful films because they do not have the talent and experience for it, but they continue to champion a rapist, so these filmmakers do not have the chance to even try.

I took a major film directors class last semester that highlighted the work of three (white male) directors, including Polanski. After we watched "Chinatown," a quiet woman in the back of the room raised her hand for the first time all semester.

"Yeah," she said, "but isn't Polanski a rapist?"

My professor shrugged and a few people chuckled.

Roman Polanski is a convicted child rapist, but I guess we are okay with that, for now.

Kristen Milburn, an English major, is in her first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

“Call me an oversensitive millennial, but I do not particularly want to see convicted rapists supported by the arts community.”

- Kristen Milburn, Staff Writer



Thumbs Up

Montclair State professor bikes from campus down to Cape May

Mariano Rivera receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

J.J. Abrams will return to the Star Wars franchise for 'Episode IX'



Thumbs Down

Seven people have mysteriously died from vaping in 2019

Felicity Huffman sentenced to 14 days in prison for her participation in the college admission scandal

Award winning journalist Cokie Roberts dies at age 75



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‘IT Chapter Two:’ Does ‘IT’ Belong in the Sewers, or Will ‘IT’ Float?

Adrian Maldonado
Web Editor

The Losers’ Club from the 2017 horror film “IT” is back and all grown up 27 years after defeating the sinister clown Pennywise.

The kid-based members of The Losers’ Club made a promise at the end of the first movie that if Pennywise ever came back, they would take it down no matter what. “IT Chapter Two” fulfills that promise as The Losers’ Club is reunited again, but this time as adults facing their childhood fear of a clown that changed their lives forever.

“IT Chapter Two” is a horrifying, but somewhat hilarious experience that goes deeper than its predecessor due to the film running for nearly three hours. While this movie was enjoyable, it still had flaws that did not satisfy me.

The cast of this movie is amazing at portraying both the childhood and adult versions of these characters. The casting of each adult resembled the original child actors physically and emotionally.

One of my favorite characters was Richie, whose adult character is played by Bill Hader and child character is played by Finn Wolfhard. Hader was the perfect actor for this role because of how hilarious the character is in both films. In most scenes Hader or Wolfhard were in, the audience and I would laugh at their snarky jokes.

Even though the adult cast was great, I still prefer the younger cast. The younger cast gives the movie a different, more nostalgic feel to it. The child actors are more lovable and that is why I love the first movie. Nevertheless, it was refreshing to see them grown-up and how much they’ve changed, yet stayed the same.

The best part of “IT Chapter Two” is seeing Pennywise back and scarier than ever. Throughout the movie, there were a lot of jump scares that made me fly out of my seat and spill my popcorn everywhere. This is exactly what the director, Andres Muschietti, wanted.

In every scene with Pennywise, I would anticipate a jump scare. Just when I thought I was ready for the scare to arrive, the movie would fool me, catching me off guard when I was least expecting it. Not only did this movie have chilling, startling scenes, it also had tremendous computer-generated imagery (CGI). Scenes with Pennywise eating children or clowning around delivered a terrifying presence.

Something I wished to see in the second installment of this franchise was more backstory on Pennywise. The film did mention some lore, like how



“IT Chapter Two” features the grown-up versions of characters from the first movie. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures



The young cast from “IT” is seen numerous times throughout flashbacks in “IT Chapter Two.” Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Pennywise is an alien who came to Earth very long ago. However, the way the director tried to deliver the message was a bit confusing and it left me with more questions.

When I first saw the trailers for the movie, I was expecting it to spend a bit more time on the lore of the world, especially since it was almost 3-hours long. I should not have to look at YouTube videos and different articles to explain the basis of the movie. If the director would have dedicated more time to Pennywise’s backstory, such as how the Native Americans came to contact Pennywise and how they learned to trap him, this film would be perfect.

Overall, “IT Chapter Two” is a great sequel and as much as I missed the younger cast, it was fun to see them grown-up and trying to battle their fears once more. With a menacing soundtrack that gave me anxiety, hilarious writing, a great cast and a spooky killer clown, I would recommend this movie to others who felt the first movie left them wanting more. Even though the movie had some flaws, “IT Chapter Two” was a thrilling film that I would rate a 3.5 out of five stars and would watch again.



Pennywise from “IT Chapter Two” likes to target children in order to feed off of their fears. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

‘The Goldfinch’ Never Quite Sings



Mrs. Barbour, played by Nicole Kidman, and Theo, played by Ansel Elgort, apprise antiques.

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Grace Wilson
Contributing Writer

One of the canniest decisions Donna Tartt made in the writing of her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel “The Goldfinch” was to get the inciting incident of the plot out of the way in the first 50 or so pages. The initial shock of that scene allows us to experience the main character’s trauma with him, creating a thread of tension and an instant emotional hook.

The film version, on the other hand, disperses little fragments of this scene throughout the meandering and disjointed first half of the film. As soon as the viewer might get invested in a scene, the film cuts away to a flashback. It is the first of a series of baffling adaptational choices that take away much of what made the acclaimed novel so poignant.

The film follows Theo Decker in the aftermath

of the art museum explosion that kills his mother. He encounters numerous colorful characters through the rarified air of upper-class New York and the seedy suburbs of Las Vegas: the Barbours, unsettling old-money family friends, Hobie, a gentle antiques restorer and Boris, the wild Ukrainian boy who forms a special bond with Theo.

Few of the film’s characters feel as vivid as they should. No one seemed willing to run with their portrayal of their character, most likely in the name of realism. “The Goldfinch” would be a much more entertaining movie if, for example, Nicole Kidman, who plays Mrs. Barbour, had been directed to make bolder choices in her portrayal of an elite matriarch and appreciator of the arts. The one standout performance comes from Oakes Fegley, who plays young Theo. Fegley does much of the emotional heavy lifting in the first half of the film.

The uneven pacing makes it even harder to get

emotionally invested from the outset. Similar to the book, the film starts with a reflective adult Theo, played by Ansel Elgort, thinking about how his mother’s death impacted his life. Instead of flashing back to her death, however, the film flashes back to a random point afterward.

The order of the scenes in the first half seems arbitrary, revealing enough at a time for the audience to understand why things are happening, but not enough that they know why they should care. The film switches to a more logical scene order about halfway through, at which point it becomes significantly more watchable. However, it still suffers from including every subplot from the book and fleshing out.

Despite the uneven pacing, some moments and relationships manage to shine through. The relationship between Theo and Boris, played by Finn Wolfhard, as teenagers is as tender as it is dysfunctional. When they meet again as adults, the emotionally vacant older Theo actually manages to crack a smile. Adult Boris, played by Aneurin Barnard, spends most of his screen time gazing at Theo. Their relationship is a bright spot of interest in an otherwise emotionally jumbled film.

The movie also looks beautiful, expertly shot by cinematographer Roger Deakins. Much of the film exists in a palette of soft cream backdrops, golden lights and blue-gray accents: the approximate palette of the titular painting. There are shots in the film that look like paintings in their own right. The cinematography fits beautifully into a plot about the significance of art.

Taken as a whole, the movie is more of a let-down than a disaster. Adapting Donna Tartt’s quasi-romantic behemoth of a novel was never going to be easy, but the choices made in this adaptation do not help matters. Taking the scenes out of sequential order did nothing to make the story work cinematically. Greater stylization, bolder direction and finding a plot to streamline might have done so.

For diehard fans of the book, or those who want to go to the movies right now but aren’t interested in killer clowns, this film might be worth watching. Overall, this “Goldfinch” simply doesn’t sing.



Young Theo, played by Oakes Fegley, as seen in the aftermath of the attack at the museum.

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

‘All My Heroes Are Cornballs’ Finds JPEGMAFIA More Open Than Ever



“All My Heroes Are Cornballs” is JPEGMAFIA’s most recent, and overall second album released. *Image from JPEGMAFIA’s BandCamp*

Sam Carliner
Staff Writer

It was only last year that JPEGMAFIA, or “Peggy” as his fans call him, released his breakthrough album “Veteran,” and established himself as one of the newest and most unique names in experimental hip-hop. Not your average rap project, the abrasive album was an almost 50-minute experience of artistically chaotic production which could only be matched with Peggy’s unique style of rapping.

The project landed a spot on almost every major music journalist’s best albums of the year list, got Peggy opportunities to perform at Coachella and tour with Vince Staples and made him an in-demand feature, appearing on projects by Denzel Curry and Flume, to name a few.

A year later, Peggy has released his highly anticipated follow-up, “All My Heroes Are Cornballs.”

The production is just as creative, the lines just as clever and the performances just as impassioned, but having finally made a name for himself in the music world, Peggy chooses to take a far more tame, and at times, a more personal approach on this album.

Of course, for a JPEGMAFIA album, “tame” is relative. The opening track, “Jesus Forgive Me, I Am A Thot,” kicks off the album with a mix of shattering glass and a noisy crowd. The track features a beat sounding almost like elevator music, interrupted by all sorts of sound effects.

The album finds Peggy abandoning his typical style of yelping, rage-filled rapping. It isn’t gone completely, but this album features a more relaxed Peggy. He also chooses to sing a lot on this album. Some tracks, like “Rap Grow Old & Die x No Child Left Behind,” see him switching from singing to rapping, but others, are entirely sung. “Life’s Hard, Here’s A Song About Sorrel” is a brief musical transition in which Peggy sings about the traditional Jamaican drink, sorrel. I could picture him smiling and holding a glass as he sings:

“Drink it when I want to/Sip it when I want to baby.”

He’s no Frank Ocean, but Peggy finds a way to

make his playful and crackly approach to singing work. At times, the singing even results in a fantastic performance, most notably on “BasicBitchTear-Gas,” in which Peggy covers a section of TLC’s “No Scrubs.” With very little added effects, he does a pretty good job singing dreamily over a simple, but fitting, instrumental.

Fans of Peggy’s boastful and unapologetic lyrics will get a lot from this album.

An excellent example is “Beta Male Strategies,” containing lines such as:

“Young Peggy, I’m a false prophet / Bringin’ white folks this new religion / My fans need new addictions.”

He then goes on to deliver one of his most ag-

gressive verses on the album in which he calls out people who act tough online:

“Say what you said on Twitter right now / You only brave with a board and a mouse / You wasn’t talkin’ when I put you in the ground.”

Another great example is “Post Verified Lifestyle,” with lines like:

“Oh, you think you up and coming, G? / Nah up and comers think they really me,” and “I’m bungie jumpin’ to my destiny / Post verified cause these (censored) really think a handle could handle me.”

Although Peggy offers plenty of his typical lyricism, he also has some pretty vulnerable moments on this album. This becomes noticeable in the second track, “Kenan Vs. Kel,” when Peggy alludes to some insecurity, either past or present, that he may have in terms of his ability to make good music:

“How we gon make this work? Facts / But like how can I make a good beat? / I get nervous when (censored) want features / How I’m gon make this work?”

A song that really stands out on this album is “Free the Frail,” which contains some very vulnerable lyrics from Peggy. He lists off many insecurities, often using interesting pop culture references:

“I feel afraid, this Easy A, I’m feelin’ framed / I wear a mask, I see the Banes / I’m still ashamed.”

The production also seems a bit more restrained too, at least for JPEGMAFIA standards. Quite a few songs contain fairly dreamy instrumentals, like the floating synths on “Grimey Waifu” or the ethereal wails on “BBW.”

Though the sound is different, there’s certainly just as much creativity as there was on “Veteran.” The song “PRONE!” heavily features digitally produced drums and guitars to match Peggy’s punk influenced rapping on the song, while “DOTS FREESTYLE REMIX” contains one of the most interesting beats on the album, an instrumental literally made from recordings of crackling fire with some added effects.

I was surprised that this album didn’t have any songs that go as hard as some of Peggy’s previous hits like “Baby I’m Bleeding” or “Puff Daddy,” but it felt rewarding and refreshing to hear a down to earth approach.

There is still originality within the production and rapping of Peggy’s new album. Like with his previous albums, “All My Heroes Are Cornballs” may rub the average listener the wrong way. However, this is a must-hear experience for any fan of experimental music.

Leading up to the release of this album, Peggy hyped it up by frequently joking that his fans would be “disappointed.” After listening to this album all weekend, I’m anything but.



JPEGMAFIA is one of the newest experimental hip-hop artists on the scene. *Image from JPEGMAFIA’s BandCamp*

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Top Picks to ‘Steam’

Train Movies

‘Snowpiercer’
on Netflix



Photo courtesy of RADIUS- TWC

In 2031, the world is left frozen and uninhabitable after a solution to global warming goes terribly wrong. The remaining survivors of this global catastrophe reside on a high-speed, planet-circling train known as the Snowpiercer. In the front of the train live the elite, the upper class who never have to worry about food or survival. In the caboose of the train live the poor and starving, led by Curtis, played by Chris Evans.

After children from the back of the train are stolen from their parents, Curtis rallies a group to march toward the front, to put an end to the suffering and inequality they’ve been enduring for years. “Snowpiercer” is a thrilling film written and directed by Joon-ho Bong, and might be the perfect train movie.

- Sharif Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

‘Murder on the Orient Express’
on CinemaxGO



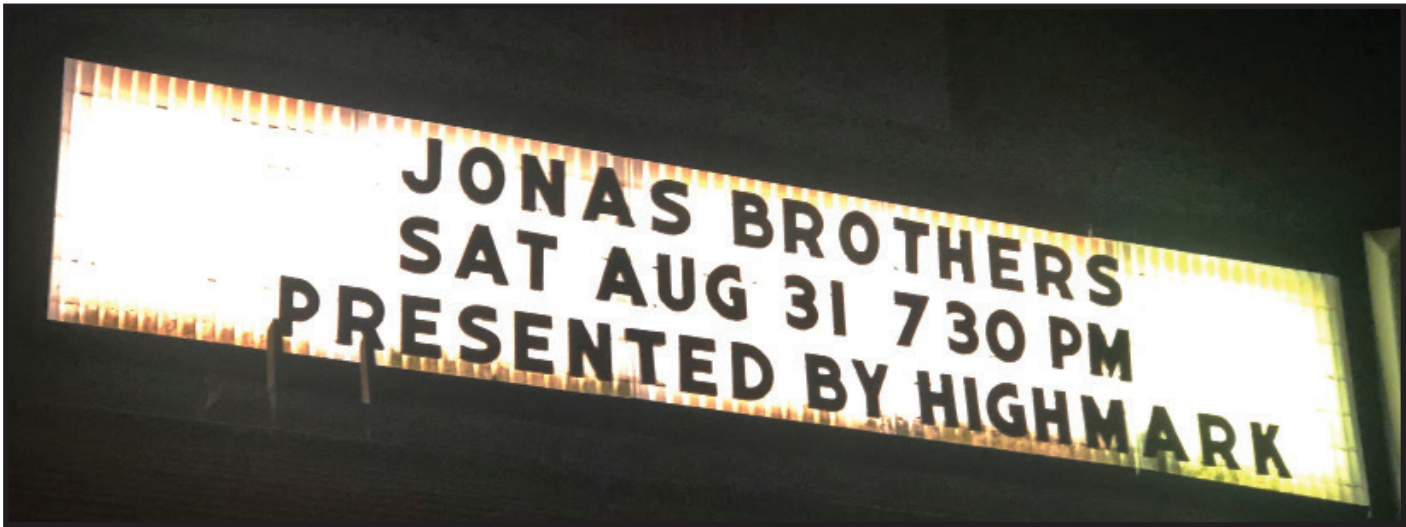
Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox

Passengers on the Orient Express to Europe find themselves as suspects in a murder investigation when one of their fellow passengers is found dead. With the killer somewhere on board, world-renowned detective Hercule Poirot must find the culprit before they take the lives of anyone else on board.

Released in 2017, this adaptation of Agatha Christie’s 1934 novel features an ensemble of cast starring the likes of Kenneth Branagh, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Willem Dafoe, Penelope Cruz and Daisy Ridley, among many more. This film is a great watch if you’re in the mood for a mystery film that will leave you guessing until the very end. This is also a great film if you’re a huge fan of trains. Most of the film takes place on a train.

- Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor

The Jonas Brothers Comeback



The Jonas Brothers announced a North American tour in 2019 following the release of their latest album. Emma Richter | The Montclarion

Emma Richter
Staff Writer

The epitome of boy bands in pop culture today has one expectation: they won’t last. The Police, Queen, The Backstreet Boys, One Direction, the list goes on and on, but one boy band still remains: The Jonas Brothers. Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas have reunited, and the nostalgia of a Jonas Brothers childhood has welcomed itself back into not only my life but the lives of fans all over the world.

Since they announced their hiatus in 2013 when they confirmed their split over “a deep rift in the band over their creative differences,” there had been no trace of the brothers, except in their solo careers following the split. Nevertheless, the brothers returned to the spotlight by dropping their first album in years, “Happiness Begins.”

At the start of the new year, the brothers announced their return, even releasing their first documentary, “Chasing Happiness,” on Amazon Prime Video. With the new album release, the brothers have embarked on their 2019 world tour, spanning across North America.

If you’re a fan like me, then you haven’t stopped following the Jonas Brothers, even after their breakup. It’s clear that the Jonas Brothers aren’t the same teenage boys we remember. As of this year, Joe and Nick Jonas are both married, while Kevin Jonas is married with kids.

Though the dynamic of their lives has changed, their music has remained true. “Happiness Begins” climbed to the top of the Billboard charts at number one, after already dropping two singles, “Sucker” and “Cool.” The announcement of their North American tour was just the icing on the cake.

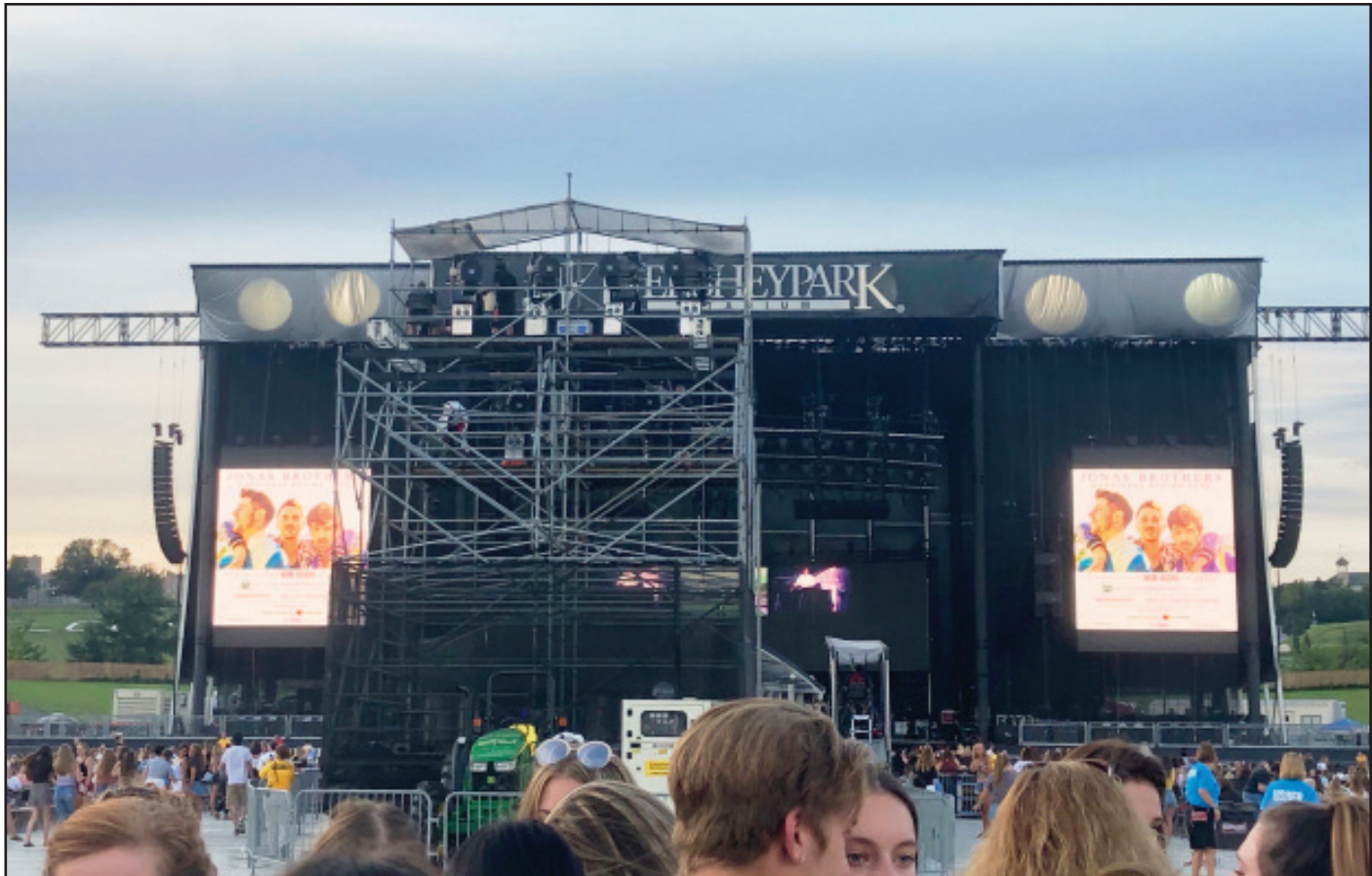
Jonas Brothers fans didn’t take these concerts lightly, and yes, I was one of them. On Aug. 31, in Hershey Park, I was able to experience the “Happiness Begins” tour. Jordan McGraw and Bebe Rexha opened for them, and they were very good, but I was really only there for my childhood to flash before my eyes all over again. The set list, like any band who drops a new album, consisted of their new hits, but the brothers knew they had to bring us back and play their classics.

They played some of my favorites, such as “Lovebug,” “Burnin’ Up,” and “When You Look Me In The Eyes.” My favorite part of the concert had to be when all three of them came out closer to the crowd and let the audience decide what they should play next. As expected, the crowd began roaring with requests, but the one that really got me was when they played “Gotta Find You,” one of their hit songs from the film “Camp Rock.”

The concert gave me a clear perspective of who the Jonas Brothers are, especially when Joe and Nick Jonas joined each other in each of their hit singles, “Cake By The Ocean” from Joe Jonas’s Band DNCE, and Nick Jonas’s single “Jealous.”

Yes, they had their differences and split up, but they managed to reunite for their loyal fanbase and for themselves as well, with each of the brothers’ journeys converging into one on their way back to the stage. Currently in the middle of their tour, the brothers will soon be wrapping up shows in the United States come February, where they will take on London.

The Jonas Brothers are back, and there is nothing we can do about it except rejoice. Whether you’re that die-hard fan from the very beginning, or even if you’re just jumping on the Jonas Brothers bandwagon now, welcome, and enjoy the ride through the nostalgia of your childhood.



The Jonas Brothers performed at Hershey Stadium in Pennsylvania on Aug. 31. Emma Richter | The Montclarion

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**THE WORLD
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Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org.

This Week In
Red Hawk
Sports

THU 9/19

No games

FRI 9/20

Women's Volleyball at
Vassar College
5 p.m.

Men's Ice Hockey at
The College of New Jersey
7 p.m.

SAT 9/21

Women's Cross Country at
NJIAAW Championships
TBA

Women's Volleyball at
Medaille College
Vassar College Quad
12 p.m.

Field Hockey vs.
Gwynedd-Mercy University
1 p.m.

Men's Soccer at
Rutgers-Camden
1 p.m.

Women's Soccer at
Rutgers-Camden
1 p.m.

Women's Volleyball at
Nazareth College
Vassar College Quad
2 p.m.

Men's Ice Hockey vs.
University of Delaware
9 p.m.

SUN 9/22

No games

MON 9/23

No games

TUE 9/24

Women's Volleyball at
New Jersey City University
7 p.m.

Men's Soccer at
Keystone College
7 p.m.

WED 9/25

Field Hockey at
FDU-Florham
7 p.m.

Women's Soccer at
William Paterson University
7 p.m.

Women's Volleyball Extends
Win Streak to Four After
Dominating Mount St. Mary's



Red Hawks' sophomore defensive specialist Katelyn Monaghan winds up for a serve against USMMA.

Ben Caplan | The Montclarion

Peter Fifoot
Contributing Writer

On a blustery, early afternoon at Panzer Gym, a vital early season matinee was brewing. The matchup featured the visiting Mount St. Mary's Knights and their intense defensive philosophy against the home team Montclair State University Red Hawks and their potent offensive attack.

Montclair State started out with a large lead, scoring 10-0 in the first half due to their incredibly aggressive offense. The Red Hawks relied on their height advantage and athleticism with their talented hitters

and blockers, such as freshman middle blocker Gianna Arias, junior outside hitter Siyara Herbert and senior outside hitter Schyler White.

Despite the attempts of Mount St. Mary's valiant defensive players Klaire Wall and Jenny Picarillo, the velocity of the sets and attacks ricocheted at top speeds and were too much to defend. At this point, the outcome was in favor of Red Hawks as they coasted through to win the opening set 25-19.

To open the second set, Montclair State started with all engines firing. This time it was the vertical game that was really clicking. Well-coordinated passes and sets by

junior setter Megan O'Rourke created a 10-0 lead for the Red Hawks. Every time Mount St. Mary's took a step forward with scoring by their top scorers, Montclair State took three steps ahead each time, scoring 25 points in order to seize victory in set two, while only giving up nine points.

All of the momentum was with the Red Hawks to start set three, but with momentum comes pressure. Montclair State was able to start fast and furious, gathering a quick 5-2 lead with great sets and attacks. The Red Hawks were able to feed on the ineptitude of scoring by the Knights of-fense and gathered their lead to 16-2.

However, a cornered athlete is a dangerous one, and this was shown with a furious rally as the Knights offense finally woke up. Scorers for Mount St. Mary's, such as sophomore middle hitter Danielle Guarasci, cut the deficit to 16-10 quite quickly, showing extreme resilience.

Still, the Red Hawks scoring surge resumed, making it 21-10. Mount St. Mary's was having an issue scoring all afternoon due to the strength and athleticism of the Montclair State offensive line. On the other hand, Mount St. Mary's was able to attack from the sides, crippling the offensively-oriented Montclair State front-line into mistakes that costed points and cut the deficit to 21-14 for the Knights. A wide set by the Knights made the score

23-14 Montclair State.

With the crowd on an excited edge, Mount St. Mary's refused to capitulate. The Knights got a good serve that caught the Red Hawks off-guard, which got them to 15 points. Despite this, the Red Hawks' frontline did its job, getting the Montclair State a point closer to victory.

The next serve went across the middle and was hit a few times by a few Red Hawks and went to Wall on Mount St. Mary's. Wall made a mistake, but this one costed the most. A bump that ricocheted wide and hit the outside of the net, took a bounce and harmlessly fell to the court, gave Montclair State the victory and a 5-2 record as Mount St. Mary's fell to a 3-6 record.

Montclair State's offensive play was spectacular and will help carry the Red Hawks this season in their quest for a New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship.

Head coach for the Red Hawks Eddie Stawinski commented on the team's win and how he thought his team played.

"Our team played well, but there is a lot obviously we can work on early in this season," Stawinski said. "We played good offensively and defensively against a good team, but we can improve."

Clearly the talent is visible and prominent. Only time will tell if Arias, Herbert and White will carry the Red Hawks to a NJAC championship.



Red Hawk's sophomore outside hitter Leah Higgins attacks the ball during their game against Stevens Institute of Technology.

Ben Caplan | The Montclarion

Red Hawk Recap

Red Hawks Women's Volleyball: 3
Mount St. Mary College: 0

Red Hawks Women's Volleyball: 2
Kean University: 3

Red Hawks Football: 28
Salve Regina University: 11

Red Hawks Women's Soccer: 1
Ursinus College: 0

A Look Inside the Red Hawk Women's Volleyball Team's Tough NJAC Loss to Kean

Photo Essay by Samantha Impaglia



Senior middle blocker Jillian Wilson celebrates a point won by the Red Hawks with her team. Samantha Impaglia | *The Montclarion*



The Red Hawks go up to shake hands with Kean after the tough loss. Samantha Impaglia | *The Montclarion*



Red Hawks junior setter Megan O'Rourke setting with hope that the hitters will get a kill. Samantha Impaglia | *The Montclarion*

The Montclair State University women's volleyball team had their first New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) game on Tuesday, which resulted in a grueling loss to current NJAC Champions Kean University. The game went into five long and intense sets, with the wins for each set going back-and-forth to each team. Each set was close, but the Red Hawks barely fell to Kean in the fifth set by a score of 15-13. Sophomore outside hitter Carly Waterman registered 18 kills, while junior setter Megan O'Rourke had 40 assists to keep the Red Hawks in line with their tough opponent.



Montclair State University fans getting involved in the exciting game as the Red Hawks strive for a win. Samantha Impaglia | *The Montclarion*



Several Red Hawks women's volleyball players cheering on their teammates against Kean. Samantha Impaglia | *The Montclarion*

Montclair State Football Optimistic for Future Despite Early Season Loss

Players give input on upcoming games and how they are striving to win



Junior quarterback Ja'Quill Burch awaits a snap against Southern Virginia University in 2018.

Ben Caplan | *The Montclarion*

Corey Annan

Assistant Sports Editor

The Red Hawks came into the season with lofty goals and high expectations for a banner season, but unfortunately, this plan took a hit in week one.

A 34-21 loss to an underdog team, the Southern Virginia University Knights, for the season opener certainly was not the way the Red Hawks or their fans had hoped for the start of the season. This was especially disappointing considering how dominant the Red Hawks were

against the Knights a season ago.

The Red Hawks' quarterback, junior Ja'Quill Burch, wasn't anticipating the performance the Knights brought to the field.

"Southern Virginia came out and really [caught us off guard] since we didn't expect them to come out with as much juice as they did," Burch said.

Burch believes that this was a huge wake-up call for a team that was stunned by the loss.

"The Southern Virginia game made us realize that we are going to get every team's best, and

we aren't surprising teams anymore," Burch said. "We want to let every team know that they are going to get our best effort every time."

The Red Hawks certainly gave a much better effort the second around against Salve Regina, punishing the Seahawks for over 400 yards of offense en route to a 28-11 victory last Saturday.

Offensively, the Red Hawks put up a much more consistent performance this week than they did against Southern Virginia, as most of their points scored the week prior came in garbage time. The run game took a noticeable improvement with Red Hawks' junior running back Craig Merkle rushing for 112 yards on 21 carries.

However, it was none other than Burch leading the way for the Red Hawk offense, throwing for 292 yards and three touchdowns on 12 out of 22 passing attempts. His efforts in week two led him to be named the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Offensive Player of the Week.

Despite all of his success, Burch has remained humble and gives credit to the rest of the offense for making his job easier.

"I really don't think it's just me," Burch said. "I truly be-

lieve we have the best offensive line and running backs in our conference, and a top-five defense in the country."

Speaking of the offensive line, they have not lost a step since last year. Only allowing one sack in the past two games, the Red Hawks' paved the way for over 883 yards of offense to date. Led by senior guard Stephen Gaffney, who was a Preseason All-American in 2019, the group has been a well-oiled machine this year.

Gaffney believes that experience and trust as a unit has contributed to the success of the group.

"It always helps when you can bring guys back, and we have four starters on the offensive line who came back this season," Gaffney said. "Our first-year starter [Mike Desarno] has played well, but it really comes down to us being able to mesh and trust each other."

Defensively, the Red Hawks have continued to develop as a unit and made a noticeable jump against Salve Regina, holding them to only 217 yards of offense throughout the game. With several defensive starters graduating last season, senior defensive lineman Brandon Burdge is extremely optimistic about the Red Hawks' defense this season but knows that there is still room for improvement.

"From camp all the way until these first two games, our defensive guys have really stepped up and progressed from week to week," Burdge said. "However, we are far from perfect, and we have to continue to get better as a unit instead of individually."

Burdge, who stands at 6'1 and weighs 260 pounds, does not exactly always get the highest statistics on the team, but knows that his role on the team is crucial to their success as a defense.

"My job is to free up the linebackers so they can make tackles, and I take pride in that," Burdge said. "If I can't [do] my job, then the linebackers can't make plays which leads to teams running up the score on us."

The Red Hawks are currently on a bye week as they will head off to Hobart next week on Sept. 28. With NJAC play coming up and the potential for a conference title and a national tournament berth on the line, the Red Hawks are taking it step-by-step on their journey to achieve their bigger goals.

"Our short term goals will lead to our long-term goals being achieved," Gaffney said. "We have to win each day, win each session, and have a better day of practice than we did the day before."



Football captains Stephen Gaffney, Brandon Burdge and Ja'Quill Burch.

Corey Annan | *The Montclarion*